

## **Conservation of Natural Resources (416-350)**

On-Line Section; Summer Semester, 2010

**Instructor:** Glen Fredlund

**Office:** On-Line/d2L

**Office Hours:** TBA and by appointment

**Phone:** 229-6112 (Direct) or 229-4866 (Geog. Dept.) or 229-2448 (CES)

**Email:** fredlund@uwm.edu\* (I greatly prefer email to phone. Phone contact should be a last-resort for some important issue)

### **Introduction:**

The goal Geography 350, Conservation of Natural Resources, is to explore the positive and negative consequences of natural resource use. We are dependent on Nature for our survival and well being. The choices we make on resource use, as individuals and as a society, will affect our physical and economic well being well into the future. These choices always require trade-offs. If we maximize our management of Nature Resources for one set of values or preferences we will likely degrade the value of Nature for other purposes. As a society we arrive at Public Policy on natural resource use through our representative democratic process. The public policies we choose today will not only affect us but our children and grand children.

I cannot teach this class as if I were value-neutral. That would be boring. Besides, why would I teach a topic that I was not passionate about? So while I will not shy away from making my own values known, I will do my best to not grade you on how closely your values match my own.

In this class you will be asked to critically examine natural resources conservation from various perspectives. The class will introduce the range of societal values related to natural resources, how these values resulted in environmental policy and the creation of environmental law, and how those environmental laws affect us all. In short, the class deals with the politics of natural resources and the environment.

Although this is a 300-level class, it is really a survey of this complex subject. The class introduces a range of topics related to affecting our decisions on public policy including environmental ethics, population dynamics, economics, science, and the wider range of cultural values. The class will focus primarily on our society but will touch on global challenges to conservation. We will begin by defining some basic concepts and a historical overview (week 1), followed by an introduction to factors important to public policy; population, economics, science (week 2). The second half of the class (weeks 3 and 4) will explore our uses of natural resources in fulfilling human needs and the impact of those uses on the greater environment we share. We will conclude with an exploration of sustainability and conservation.

Geography 350 is an approved Social Science GER course.

## Required Text:

There is no required text. We will have daily readings and/or activities available in pdf format on d2L or on the web.

## Class Format:

Presenting this class in an on-line format can be challenging. To give you an exposure to anything less than what I strive for in the face-to-face format would be cheating you of the value of the class. I am still working to adjust my on-line teach to accomplish this.

The short (4 weeks) summer semester adds additional complications. In a normal semester, you would have almost 400% more time to think, read, and assimilate the content. The compressed nature of the summer semester will likely require you to be on-line for more than an hour a day, at least 4 days a week. Because online-discussion take the place on in-class earning interaction, parts of the class are not possible for you to work on at your own pace. They require you to interact with fellow students and me within a set period of time. It does not work if a third of the class is on week 3 and another third is still on week one of the discussion. There will be deadlines for contributing to discussions and for completing on-line quizzes. Other assignments do not necessarily need to be done in lock-step, and I will try to be as flexible as possible for completion of those. Officially this class runs from June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and while it is possible to finish all of the work within that time frame, I recognize that most of you are working on many other things. For that reason some assignments will not be counted late if turned in by midnight July 29<sup>th</sup>. Assignments will be accepted (with late penalty) as late as Aug 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Grading:

Your grade will be calculated from a 300 possible points. These points are divided among 4 activities: on-line quizzes, daily discussions, assignments/essays, and a final essay exam. You will need to keep up with these activities on a daily or weekly basis. Many will be set to close at the end of the week.

<b>Learning Activity</b>	<b>Points (~%)</b>	<b>Per Assignment</b>
<b>On-line Quiz</b>	<b>80 pts. (~27%)</b>	<b>8 quizzes * 10 pts</b>
<b>Online Discussion</b>	<b>84 pts. (~28%)</b>	<b>12 topics * 07 pts</b>
<b>Essays/Papers/Projects</b>	<b>60 pts. (~20%)</b>	<b>3 papers * 20 pts</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>76 pts. (~26%)</b>	<b>1 exam * 76 pts</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>300 pts. (100%)</b>	

Your final grade for the class will be based on your performance within the total class curve. The sum of your total points, not the average of exam letter grades, will be used to rank your performance within the class. The grading curve may fluctuate with class performance. Maximum breaks-point for percentage of total points needed for letter grades are: A=90%, B=80%, C=70%, and D=55%. The grading curve may be lowered, but not raised above these guaranteed percentages.

## **Desire-to-Learn (d2L) Materials and Activities:**

All course materials, lecture outlines, discussions, quizzes, and grades-postings are through the class d2L web site. It is critical that you become comfortable with using this software.

### **Content tab:**

**Class Files:** Includes the syllabus and grading matrix used for discussion and assignments.

**Assignments:** Includes three assignments (two response essays and one more flexible learning project) and a final discussion essay exam will be made available during the semester. On the last day of the regular class, you will be given a set of essay questions related to the class content. These questions will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the terms, concepts, and problems related to Conservation of Natural Resources. You will be given a week to complete this exam and submit it to the d2L dropbox. These are the activities which you will be given the most flexibility to complete.

**Lectures:** in the form of power-point presentations and an associated text file are available for each topic. I will create a series of discussion boards (one per each topic) where you can ask for clarification, or just discuss. These are NOT the same as the “daily discussion.”

### **Quizzes tab:**

**Quizzes:** Each week you will have two, 10-question, on-line quizzes. You will have 2 attempts per quiz. The higher of the two scores will be counted. These multiple-choice quizzes will focus on terms and concepts from the readings or power-point “lectures.”

### **Discussions tab:**

**Lectures Discussions:** (non-graded, see above)

**Daily discussions:** The on-line discussion takes the place of coming to class. You are required to participate weekly in 3 on-line discussions. These discussions will typically focus on some topic associated with an assigned essay (or radio/TV report) and related concepts from the power-point “lectures.” I will grade you on your contribution to these group learning activities. The grading matrix for grading your participation is provided on a separate document. Extra Credit: Participation in on-line discussion beyond the full-credit expectations will be rewarded with extra credit points (3 max per topic).

Each discussion topic based around a reading or some other topic will be available for ~48 hours. Participation in these discussions in a timely manner is critical for the class to work and critical for your grade. There are points associated with each. Don't skip them.

**Quizzes tab:**

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**Dropbox tab:**

A drop box will be created for of the 4 assignments. You must submit files in one of these formats: MS Word (doc, docx), Rich Text Format (rtf), or Portable Document Format (pdf). Work submitted in other formats will not be accepted unless previously approved.

**Survey tab:**

We will use the survey tab at least once, during the first week. The Kellert survey provided there will be used as part of the daily discussion. You are required to complete that survey.

**Course Policies and Guidelines:**

**Accommodations for Religious Observances:** Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other course requirements at an alternative date and time if their participation in a religious observation prevents them from completing the assignment on the scheduled date. The student is responsible for contacting his/her professor during the first two weeks of the semester regarding the need to reschedule the assignment dates.

**Change of Grades:** Professors and instructors may not change a course grade after the grade sheet has been submitted to the Registrar except for an inadvertent error in determining or recording the grade OR in the case where the original grade was an incomplete. Any change in a student's grade or record, including retroactive change to drop, withdrawal, or incomplete, must receive the approval of the Dean of the School or College in which the student was enrolled at the time the course was taken.

**Incompletes:** An incomplete may be given in lieu of a final grade **only** if the student has completed the course successfully until near the end of the semester/session but, because of an illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond his/her control, can not complete a final project/paper or examination. The student must be able to provide his/her professor or instructor with written, verifiable and acceptable proof of a medical or family emergency. This proof must clearly indicate that the emergency prevented the student from completing the assignment(s).

**Equal Treatment:** The principle of equal treatment of all students is a fundamental guide in responding to requests for special consideration. No student shall be given an opportunity to improve a grade that is not made available to all members of the class. This policy is not intended to exclude reasonable accommodation of verified student

disability or the completion of work missed as the result of religious observance, verified illness, or justified absence due to circumstances beyond a student's control.

**Participation by Students with Disabilities:** Students who need accommodations to meet the requirements in any course should contact the professor, instructor, or teaching assistant of the course no later than two weeks after the beginning of the course.

**Grievance Policy and Procedure:** If, for any reason, you believe that you are being treated unfairly within this course your first step is to see me, the instructor. If the perceived problem cannot be satisfactorily resolved through instructor-student mediation, you must next make an appointment to see the chairperson of the Department of Geography. Information regarding the policies and procedures applicable to this course are available on request at the Geography Department main office, Bolton 410 or on line: [http://www.uwm.edu/letsci/grievance\\_procedure.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/letsci/grievance_procedure.pdf).

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct:** Each student has an obligation to act with honesty and integrity, and to respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. **Academic Misconduct** may result in the immediate failure of the course in which the misconduct occurs. Academic misconduct will be reported to the Investigating Officer of the College of Letters and Science and additional sanctions may be recommended. A student may be found to have violated this obligation and to have engaged in academic dishonesty if during or in connection with any academic evaluation, if he/she:

- A. Engages in any form of academic deceit, (including **cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism**);
- B. Refers to materials or sources or employs devices (e.g., audio recorders, crib sheets, calculators, solution manuals, or commercial research services) not authorized by the instructor for use during the academic evaluation;
- C. Possesses, buys, sells, obtains, or uses, without appropriate authorization, a copy of any materials intended to be used for academic evaluation in advance of its administration;
- D. Acts as a substitute for another person in any academic evaluation;
- E. Uses a substitute in any academic evaluation;
- F. Depends on the aid of others to the extent that the work is not representative of the student's abilities, knowing or having good reason to believe that this aid is not authorized by the instructor.
- G. Provides inappropriate aid to another person, knowing or having good reason to believe the aid is not authorized by the instructor;
- H. Engages in plagiarism;
- I. Permits his or her work to be submitted by another person without the instructor's authorization; or
- J. Attempts to influence or change any academic evaluation or record for reasons having no relevance to class achievement.

"**Cheating**" is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids" in any academic exercise. Examples: a) Gaining unauthorized access to a copy of an exam; b) Working with other

students on an exam without the express permission of the instructor; c) Submitting the same paper or substantial portions of a paper for multiple classes without the express permission of the instructor.

**"Fabrication"** involves the "intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Examples: a) Fabricating data and/or creating a scientific lie; b) Creating quotations or inventing a journal article, book reference, etc.

**"Plagiarism"** means using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately. Examples: a) Failing to cite any major idea created by some other person or entity; b) Failing to cite and/or enclose in quotation marks all words, phrases or sentences copied from another source; c) Failing to cite paraphrased work of others; d) Acquiring a paper or project from a research service or another source and submitting it as your own work for academic evaluation.

**Note:** This schedule of topics, due-dates and assignments is tentative and subject to change as the semester progresses. Changes will be posted on d2L. Look in “Announcements” for up dates.

Abbreviations:

D01 – D12 = Discussions on-line, 3 per week

As01 – As03 = Assignments 1, 2, and 3

Q1 – Q8 = On-line Quiz 01 through 08.

Day	Start – End	Topic or Goal	Assignment Due
	<b>Week 1</b>		
01	June 27	Into to Natural Resources (3 lectures)	D01
02	June 28	History of Conservation in U.S. (3 lectures)	D02
03	June 29	Environmental Economics; Population	D03
04	July 30	Science, Ecology, and Natural Resources	
	July 03		Q1 and Q2; As01*
	<b>Week 2</b>	-- 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Weekend --	
05	July 05	Challenges of Sustainable Agriculture	
06	July 06	Agriculture (continued)	D04
07	July 07	Managing Terrestrial Ecosystems	D05
08	July 08	Grazing Ecosystem; Forest Resources	D06
	July 10		Q3 and Q4
	<b>Week 3</b>		
09	July 11	Wildlife and Biodiversity	D07
10	July 12	Water Resources; Marine Resources	D08
11	July 13	Waste Management	D09
12	July 14	Mineral Resources (non-energy)	
	July 17		Q5 and Q6; As02*
	<b>Week 4</b>		
13	July 18	Air Quality	D10
14	July 19	Global Climate Change	D11
15	July 20	Energy Conservation	D12
16	July 21	Sustainability	
	July 24		Q7 and Q8; As03*
	<b>Final Exam</b>		
--	July 24	Final Exam given July 22; Due July 29	Final Exam*

\* Due date for As01, As02, and As03 suggested. No late fined if submitted by July 29<sup>th</sup>. Final essay exam is due on that date, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Late work (with penalties) acceded through Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>.